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E. Patricia Llodra
First Selectman

TOWN OF NEWTOWN
OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN

Government Administration and Elections Committee
State of Connecticut

March 17, 2014

Chairmen Musto and Jutila, Ranking Members Hwang and McLachlan, and committee members:

Thank you for taking the time to consider my testimony in favor of Section 6 of House Bill 5550, An Act Concerning the Conveyance of Certain Parcels of State Land. My name is Patricia Llodra. I am the First Selectman of the Town of Newtown. The land under consideration lies within our borders.

I strongly support the conveyance of this parcel of 34.44 acres to the Catherine Violet Hubbard Foundation and encourage the Committee to act favorably. The Foundation will use this land as a sanctuary for animals and for nature preservation purposes, initiatives we find consistent with our goals for the property and generally related to current uses in adjacent parcels.

The Catherine Violet Hubbard Foundation has been created to honor 6 year-old Catherine Hubbard, a first-grader killed in the Sandy Hook shooting of December 14, 2012. Young Catherine's love of animals and delight in the natural world provided the springboard for parents, Jenny and Matt, to work these past months to create the infrastructure necessary for successful completion of a project that rightly honors their lost daughter. A critical piece of their effort is to secure a location for the sanctuary. We feel that the parcel under consideration is an ideal spot.

I am confident that I speak for the Town of Newtown in encouraging support for this conveyance. Again, I respectfully ask that the Committee act favorably on Section 6 of House Bill 5550. Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "E. Patricia Llodra".

E. Patricia Llodra
First Selectman, Town of Newtown